

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277
Yoko KUMAGAI, et al. : Confirmation Number: 9550
Application No.: 10/076,624 : Group Art Unit: 2131
Filed: February 19, 2002 : Allowed: May 13, 2008
Examiner: Trang T. Doan
:
For: PUBLIC KEY CERTIFICATE GENERATION METHOD, VALIDATION METHOD AND APPARATUS THEREOF

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF
REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 104(e)**

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

A Statement of Reasons for Allowance accompanied the May 13, 2008 Notice of Allowability regarding the above-identified application. Although Applicants agree that the claims are patentable over the art, entry of the Statement into the record should not necessarily be construed as any agreement with or acquiescence by Applicants in the reasoning set forth in the Statement, particularly to the extent that the wording used in the Statement differs from the actual claim language and/or the otherwise proper interpretation of the claim language.

The Statement sets forth a single rationale for patentability with respect to all of the allowed claims. The Statement discusses Matsuyama; however, that discussion is not attributable to Applicants. Also, the Statement includes two phrases in quotations. One phrase is a quotation of a paragraph of claim 1. The other phrase, however, does not appear explicitly in any of the claims. The patentable language of the allowed claims is already of record in the case and is adequately clear.

Repetition of selected claim language (e.g. the first quotation) in the Statement adds nothing substantive to the record and should not create any narrowing interpretation or estoppel with regard to any of the allowed claims or any of the recitations contained in the allowed claims. Also, the other two independent claims are somewhat different from claim 1, which is overlooked by the quotation of language only from claim 1. With regard to the second phrase in quotation marks, it is the actual claim language that controls, not the different wording in the Statement. The claims differ as to language and scope, and it is submitted that each claim is independently patentable in its own right, based on the respective actual claim language, not just for one general reason as suggested by the Statement.

It is respectfully submitted that the allowed claims should be entitled to the broadest reasonable interpretation and to the broadest range of equivalents that are appropriate in light of the language of the claims, the supporting disclosure and Applicants' prosecution of the claims, without reference to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

To the extent necessary, if any, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP


Keith E. George
Registration No. 34,111

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 KEG:MWE
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: June 23, 2008

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as our correspondence address.**